



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Tuesday, November 27, 2007

Governor Janet Napolitano will join Arizona Department of Public Safety for Groundbreaking of the Southern Regional Crime Laboratory

Governor Janet Napolitano today broke ground for the new Southern Regional Crime Laboratory, a 42,000 square-foot Tucson facility that will benefit the state with expanded space and enhanced lab capabilities.

New Toxicology services can be added to the expanded space. The analysis of blood for drug levels will be added to combat DUI drivers and bring to justice those who injure and kill others while driving under the influence of drugs. Analysis time will improve 15 to 20 percent since these cases will no longer be sent to Phoenix.

Case processing efficiencies throughout the lab will improve from 10 percent to 25 percent in each forensic science area as current space bottlenecks are removed and DPS criminalists no longer have to stand in line to process evidence.

“This new lab is vital to our commitment to fight crime throughout Arizona,” said Governor Napolitano. “It will provide state of the art research and analysis, enhancing the ability of law enforcement to protect our citizens, particularly in the areas of drug smuggling and human trafficking.”

“We at DPS are extremely proud of the work the state lab system provides to law enforcement throughout the state. Today’s groundbreaking for the new Southern Regional Crime Lab marks a major milestone in providing enhanced scientific data for the criminal justice community. Arizona taxpayers will see cases resolved quicker as this new facility will be better equipped to keep up with the demand for advanced law enforcement services in this part of the state,” said Roger Vanderpool, Director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

“We have seen extraordinary advances in forensic science over the past several years,” said Terry Goddard, Arizona Attorney General. “It is important that the state labs, including the lab in Tucson, keep up with this new technology. I am proud that the Attorney General’s Office is part of this effort that will help solve crimes in Southern Arizona.”

“This new Laboratory in Tucson will allow additional state-of-the-art DNA procedures to be implemented which are essential to solving all types of violent crimes including the numerous cases of border violence being submitted to the Lab,” said Todd Griffith, Superintendent of the Arizona Department of Public Safety State Laboratory.

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Scheduled completion in March 2009. Construction Cost \$14.5 Million. Project Budget \$17.7 Million. Money was approved and earmarked in late 2006.

Contractor: Summit Builders
Architect: DLR Group

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agency in United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix with offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.

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